

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 08133 301639Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 HEW-08 DODE-00 AID-20 L-03 PA-04

PRS-01 DRC-01 /141 W

----- 127035

R 301047Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6814

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 8133

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, LA

SUBJECT: GENERAL OUAN DENIES DRUG TRAFFICKING

ALLEGATIONS

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 8049 (NOTAL)

(B) FBIS 290734Z NOV 73

1. GENERAL OUAN RATHIKOUN, IN A VIENTIANE NEWSPAPER (XAT LAO) INTERVIEW NOVEMBER 30, EMPHATICALLY DENIED STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN AN ARTICLE PRINTED IN THE NOVEMBER 27 BANGKOK POST (REFTEL A).

2. ACCORDING TO OUAN, HE HAD TOLD THE THAI JOURNALIST NOVEMBER 25 OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE DRUG TRADE SIX OR SEVEN YEARS AGO. HE NOTED THAT, AT THAT TIME (1962-64), HE HAD BEEN ORDERED BY GENERAL PHOUMI NOSAVAN, THEN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE, TO CONTROL THE TRANSPORTATION OF OPIUM THROUGH LAOS, SO AS TO GENERATE FUNDS

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TO SUPPORT THE LAO ARMY WHICH HAD SUFFERED A CUT IN U.S.

ASSISTANCE. THIS OPERATION WAS ABANDONED AFTER THE U.S. RESUMED ITS AID, OUAN NOTED, WELL BEFORE THE RLG PASSED ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW IN 1971.

3. WHILE DENYING ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE POST ARTICLE, OUAN MANAGED TO RESTATE HIS CRITICISM OF U.S. ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS IN LAOS. HE CRITICIZED THEM FOR EMPHASIZING ONLY THE ENFORCEMENT SIDE OF THE DRUG PROBLEM, WHILE IGNORING THE NEED FOR SUBSTITUTE CROPS IN HILLTRIBE VILLAGES.

4. ON NOVEMBER 29, THE BANGKOK NATION REPRINTED GENERAL OUAN'S "REPORT ON THE NARCOTICS TRADE." THE REPORT, WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN A LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA APRIL 10, 1972, WAS WRITTEN AT A TIME WHEN OUAN WAS ALSO BEING CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING. THE REPORT SPELLED OUT OUAN'S FORMER ROLE IN THE DRUG TRADE IN MUCH THE SAME TERMS OUAN USED IN HIS XAT LAO INTERVIEW NOVEMBER 30.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG TRAFFIC, PRESS COMMENTS, DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973VIENTI08133  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** (A) VIENTIANE 8049 (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 NOV 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21-Nov-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <21-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENERAL OUAN DENIES DRUG TRAFFICKING ALLEGATIONS  
**TAGS:** SNAR, LA, (OUAN RATHIKOUN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005